



Minneapolis Connects

a bi-monthly newsletter brought to you by the
Neighborhood and Community Relations Department

March/April 2011

Community Participation Program Update

At the March 22, 2011 meeting, the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will consider an additional 14 neighborhood organization submissions for funding through the Community Participation Program (CPP). The 14 submissions amount to \$608,000 in total funding.

As of February 2011, the NCEC has approved 45 neighborhood submissions for a total of \$1,964,796. If all of the submissions are approved at the March meeting, 59 of 71 recognized neighborhood organizations would be approved for funding, for a total of \$2,572,778.

The deadline for submissions is being moved up to the last day of each month in order to give the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission sufficient time to review all submissions prior to their following meeting.

To have your submission reviewed by the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission at its April 26, 2011 meeting, your submission is due by the end of the day, Thursday, March 31, 2011. Submissions received after the end of each month will be reviewed at the next available meeting of the NCEC. You can find neighborhood organizations' submissions online at: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/community-participation.asp>

Youth Violence Prevention Conference

The Minneapolis Department of Health and Family Support is sponsoring a Youth Violence Prevention Conference in the beginning of May. The conference date and all other logistics will be announced in the coming weeks. The focus of the conference will be to highlight the city's Blueprint for Action violence prevention strategy as well as to hear from conference participants about ideas, strategies and missing initiatives that should be included in the Blueprint. The objective of the conference will be to provide a platform for interested conference participants to become more engaged in the youth violence prevention work taking place in Minneapolis.

For more information about the conference, please visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/yvp or email diane.haugesag@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

2011 Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission Elections

This year, Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) districts 1, 3, 5 and 7 are up for re-election through the neighborhood election process. In addition, 1 Mayoral, 1 City Council and 1 Park Board position are up for re-appointment through the City's appointment process. A city-wide meeting will be held on April 16th to discuss the election process. Each neighborhood is being asked to send one representative empowered to vote on election procedural options.

The NCEC is working to create a stronger relationship between the City and neighborhoods, and part of that work involves preparing for the upcoming neighborhood elections process for NCEC members. Right now, the NCEC Selection/Diversity Task Force is currently working on creating uniform selection procedures that will promote diversity on the commission.

For more information about the election process and the April 16th city-wide meeting, please visit: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/ncr/NCEC_election.asp

European Union Exchange

On Friday, March 4, 2011, the Access and Outreach Team welcomed 9 international visitors from several different European countries. They visited Minneapolis to learn more about how the City has established a long tradition of welcoming and integrating newly arrived immigrants and refugees. Currently, the City continues to welcome immigrants and refugees and see the value of their contribution in society.

Apply for openings on Minneapolis boards and commissions

Volunteers on City of Minneapolis boards and commissions provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. Applications are now being accepted for the over 100 open positions on 16 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City.

Applications will be reviewed beginning April 4th, 2011; however the positions are open until filled. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions as well as additional information visit the boards and commissions website at: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions.

To learn more about a particular open position or board/commission please join us in an online chat or visit our open house:

Online chat: Tuesday, March 22 from noon to 1 p.m. To access the online chat visit www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/chat.

Open house: Thursday, March 24 from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board Headquarters, 2117 West River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55411

We Want You Back

"We Want You Back" – a collaboration between Minneapolis Public Schools and Minneapolis Youth Coordinating Board designed to help un-enrolled young people complete school credits and graduate from High School. Teams of community and school district volunteers fan out across the city to connect young people with resources, support and information. The Access and Outreach team participates in the campaign by providing outreach efforts as well as connecting communities of color with the campaign.

This year the We Want You Back campaign will be held on Saturday, September 10, 2011. To learn more about the We Want You Back campaign or to volunteer: Jo Haberman, Youth Coordinating Board, 612-673-2720 or wwyb@ycb.org

Neighborhood Funding Work Group Report to City Council

The Neighborhood and Community Relations Department (NCR) reported back to the City Council's Committee of the Whole on March 9. At the meeting, the NCR provided an update on the recommendations of the Neighborhood Funding Work Group and reported to the committee its recommendation to release \$2,680,000 of the \$12,680,000 of NRP fund balance suspended as a result of the budget action in December. The recommendation also maintains the responsibility of distributing these funds with the NRP Policy Board.

Moving forward, the NCR department and the NCEC will be working with neighborhoods and City departments on establishing a new Transition Phase for NRP that supports connecting neighborhood priorities to City programs, service delivery and budgeting. The NCR and NCEC will also be meeting with neighborhoods in April and May to discuss this and to seek input on how to address equity concerns resulting from the aforementioned budget action. The NCR will report back to the City Council in July as this work continues.

To view the PowerPoint and other related documents please go to: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2011-meetings/20110401/CoWAgenda20110309.asp>

Informative Video Snippets

The Access and Outreach Team, in partnership with the Communications Department, has developed a series of short videos in Spanish, Somali, and Hmong languages with information about City services. These short videos will be aired on Minneapolis Channel 79. Upcoming topics are how to use 311 and 911, how to be a responsible pet owner from Animal Care and Control. Past topics include shoveling snow and snow plowing.

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